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ACTION WHA-00 B4

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-01	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CEA-01	CTME-00
	INL-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	ITCE-00	DOT-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	EB-00	EXME-00	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00
	FBO-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01
	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OES-01	OMB-01
	OPIC-01	PC-05	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	SP-00	IRM-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	ASDS-01
	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00

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P 112231Z JUN 01
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1950
INFO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
NSC WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
AMEMBASSY HANOI

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SENSITIVE

STATE FOR WHA/AND, WHA/ESPC
STATE PLEASE PASS OPIC FOR DMORENESE
STATE PASS EXIMBANK FOR AMERICAS DIVISION
COMMERCE FOR 4331/IEP/OLA/AND/JANGLIN AND FOR
3134/USFCS/OIO/WH/DLUTTER
ENERGY FOR GARY WARD AND ERIKA BENSON
HANOI FOR BERG

E.O. 12958: N/A

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 14 JAN 2004 200203418

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TAGS: EPET, ENRG, ECON, EINV, PINR, ASEC, CO
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S JUNE 5 MEETING WITH TEXACO

REFTEL: BOGOTA 04064

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) AMBASSADOR MET ON JUNE 5 WITH TEXACO PRESIDENT OF PRODUCTION OPERATIONS FOR WORLDWIDE EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION JOHN BETHANCOURT, SENIOR PRODUCTION ADVISOR FOR WORLDWIDE PRODUCTION OPERATIONS JANEEN JUDAH AND TEXACO COLOMBIA PRESIDENT ALEX ARCHILA. BETHANCOURT TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT THE NATURAL GAS PRICING BILL (REFTEL) WAS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY TO PASS, AND THAT

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COMMENT

5. (SBU) TEXACO HAS A USD 200 MILLION OFFSHORE INVESTMENT IN THE GUAJIRA REGION AND IS THE LAST COMPANY IN COLOMBIA THAT HAS AN EXPLORATION CONTRACT FOR GAS (FIVE COMPETITORS HAVE DROPPED OUT IN THE PAST THREE YEARS). WITH LITTLE HOPE OF PASSAGE OF THE NATURAL GAS PRICING BILL BEFORE THE CURRENT COLOMBIAN CONGRESSIONAL SESSION ENDS JUNE 20, TEXACO MUST KEEP ITS FINGERS CROSSED THAT COLOMBIA'S ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (CREG) WILL WORK WITH THE ENERGY AND MINES MINISTRY TO CREATE NEW REGULATIONS IN ORDER TO LIBERALIZE THE NATURAL GAS MARKET. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT EFFECT THE RECENT RECONFIGURATION OF THE CREG BOARD WILL HAVE. END COMMENT.

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PATTERSON

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